



November 2005

Federal Parcel Provides for Expansion of Historic Park

First addition to Portland's North Park Blocks since 1869



Photo courtesy Gary Munsterman.

Portland, OR (October 5, 2005) - The National Park Service participated with the General Services Administration (GSA) and the City of Portland in a transfer ceremony commemorating the pending public benefit conveyance of 0.66 acres through the Federal Lands to Parks program. Fort Vancouver NHS Superintendent Tracy Fortman, GSA Regional Administrator Jon Kvistad, and City Commissioner Dan Saltzman signed a ceremonial deed for the pending transfer of the property at no cost. The city plans to redevelop the parcel with an extension of the park's landscaping pattern and the creation of an outdoor plaza.

Located at the northern terminus of the North Park

Blocks, the parcel had been originally designated as a part of a 25 block long pedestrian promenade in the 1860's, but was later acquired by the Federal Government for use with the adjoining historic post office. The park connects to the city's Pearl District, an area with significant need for additional urban park spaces because of recent high density residential development. Regional Program Coordinator Gary Munsterman is managing the transfer process; for more information, please contact him at gary_munsterman@nps.gov or 510- 817-1445.

Celebrating a Revitalized Community Space

New Lynden Hill facilities opened

Milwaukee, WI (September 24, 2005) - Over two hundred neighbors and partners celebrated National Public Lands Day at Lynden Hill planting fall flowers, participating in a clean- up, and listening to great jazz. But the true highlight of the breezy fall afternoon was a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open three new facilities at the "Hill:" an entrance area, amphitheater, and council ring. After years of planning and improvements, the new facilities will allow for greater local use of the park, including church gospel sings, neighborhood meetings, and impromptu field games.

The site continues to host the Urban Treehouse, an environmental education program sponsored jointly by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In partnership with Midtown Neighborhood Association and Neighborhood House, the Urban Treehouse program reaches nearly 2000 children annually.



Photo courtesy Mark Weaver

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program staff led the site selection, protection, and design phases, including concept planning for the site and preparation of a Forest Management Plan. For more information, please contact Mark Weaver at mark_weaver@nps.gov or (414) 297- 3617.

Surplus River Access Site Becomes Community's First Waterfront Park

Community obtains permanent public access to Ohio River



Photo courtesy Bill Huie

Florence, KY (October 11, 2005) –The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program transferred the Big Bone Access Site to Boone County, Kentucky, at no cost, for their first community riverfront park. Valued at over \$1.25 million the 42.45- acre Big Bone Access Site provides a boat launching ramp, parking area, camping area, boat storage, and acres of rolling open space overlooking the Ohio River. Formerly acquired and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for boating access, the property will be operated as a community riverfront park. NPS Federal Lands to Parks staff negotiated the transfer. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404- 562- 3175.

35 Miles of Paddling Opportunities

Milwaukee Urban Water Trail provides safe public access

Milwaukee, WI (September 2005) - This fall the Milwaukee Urban Water Trail (MUWT) was opened with much fun and fanfare, including a paddle and ribbon- cutting ceremony. This canoe and kayak route through urban portions of the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers provides for 35 miles of paddling. The Milwaukee Urban Water Trail was created in response to a gap between increased interest in urban river recreation and limited information available on how to safely and legally access Milwaukee's rivers. In response, the MUWT map and brochure indicates safe and legal river access points, amenities such as restrooms and parking, river- oriented natural, cultural, and historical points of interest, critical areas such as rapids and dams, and areas of heavy motor boat traffic.



Photo courtesy Angie Tornes

National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program staff provided technical assistance on partnership development, identification of recreation needs and funding opportunities, and creation of a work plan and brochure. Partners include Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, PDI Site Engineering, and the Badger State Boating Society. For more information, please contact Angie Tornes at angie_tornes@nps.gov or (414) 297- 3605.

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